Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cable shortener apparatus for permitting the length adjustment of a tensioned cable having a certain diameter, said cable being arranged for supporting a sign carrier from an overhead support, said cable shortener apparatus comprising:

an annular hub having a first end and a second end;

a rigid radially outwardly extending flange arranged on ~~arrangedon~~ each end of said hub, each of said flanges ~~flsanges~~ having a peripheral outer lip, each of said peripheral outer lips on each of said flanges together defining a pair of cable slippage-preventing lips, said cable slippage-preventlng lips being spaced apart from one another a distance greater than said one certain diameter and less than twice said certain diameter of said cable to prevent inadvertent slippage or unwrapping of said cable past itself through said spaced apart distance between said outer lips of said flanges when said cable is wrapped about the outer surface of said hub and placed under tension.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The cable shortener apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said radially extending flanges and said annular hub defines an arrangement of radially inner and side margins of a toroidal volume cable wrap area.

Claim 3. (CurrentlyAmended) The cable shortener as recited in claim 2, wherein said cable has a diameter of more than half of said ~~said~~ distance of said spaced apart outer lips of said flanges.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The cable shortener as recited in claim 2 wherein said inner hub and each annular flange are individual components mated together to define a toroidal volume for receipt of said cable.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A sign adjustment mechanism for adjusting the height of a sign supported by at least one cable under tension hung from an overhead support, said cable having a certain diameter, said mechanism comprising:

a pair of rigid, annular~~, rings each arranged~~ rings each arranged a spaced apart ~~a~~ first distance from one another on an end of an inner hub disposed between said rings, each of said rings having an outer peripheral lip spaced apart a second distance from one another, said second distance being larger than said certain diameter of said cable and less than twice said certain diameter of said cable, to define a pair of slippage-preventing lips, thus to permit said cable to be wrapped about said hub between said rings to thus shorten said cable.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting the height of a sign from an overhead support by at least one cable or line, said cable or line having a certain diameter, said method comprising:

wrapping said cable around a toroidally shaped volume comprised of a hub and a pair of flanges arranged on each end of said hub, said flanges each having an outer peripheral lip, each of said peripheral lips of said flanges being spaced apart from one another a distance less than twice said certain diameter of said cable and said lips also being spaced apart a distance greater than said certain diameter of said cable thus forming a pair of cable slippage-preventing lips.

Claim 8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 7, including:

unwrapping said cable or line from about said hub, and between said spaced-apart peripheral lips to lengthen said cable or line.